A

SHORT ADDRESS

FROM

Lord *GEORGE SACKVILLE*

TO THE

PUBLIC.

LONDON:

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Homer's-Head*, near *Temple-Bar*.

M.DCC.LIX.

46
1. 8
462.

A

SHORT ADDRESS, &c.

THE various Reports that have been propagated to my Diſadvantage, and the many Falſhoods which have been aſſerted to ruin my Character, lay me under the Neceſſity of remaining not entirely ſilent, though I am debarred at preſent from ſtating my Caſe to the Public, as I ſhould have done, had I not had Aſſurances of obtaining a Court-Martial for my Trial, the only legal and effectual Method of convincing the World how little Foundation there has been for the Torrent of Calumny and Abuſe, which has been ſo maliciouſly thrown out againſt me.

I had rather upon this Occaſion, ſubmit myſelf to all the Inconveniencies that may ariſe from the Want of Stile, than borrow Aſſiſtance from the Pen of others, as I can have no Hopes of eſtabliſhing my Character, but from the Force of Truth, I ſhall therefore as plainly, and diſtinctly as poſſible, relate a few Circumſtances, which will at leaſt ſhew, that no body could be more deſirous than I was to bring Truth to Light, and ſubject my Conduct to the ſtricteſt Scrutiny.

The Inſtant I found by the implyed Cenſure given out in Orders the Second of *Auguſt*, that my Conduct had appeared in an unfavourable Light to Prince *Ferdinand* on the Day of Action, I endeavoured to inform myſelf in what Particular I had either failed in or neglected my Duty ; I heard in general of Diſobedience of Orders, but I could fix no certain Period of Time to my ſuppoſed Crime, till Col. *Fitzroy* acquainted me with what had paſſed between his Serene Highneſs and him upon my Subject, in regard to the Orders delivered to me by him (Col. *Fitzroy)* that Day ; whenever my Trial comes, I ſhall endeavour to clear up that Point to the Satisfaction of the Publick : My own Aſſertions may have little Weight, but the Oaths of Witneſſes, whoſe Veracity cannot be called in queſtion, will, I truſt, prove my Innocence beyond the poſſibility of Doubt.

Under theſe Circumſtances, I immediately applied for his Majeſty's Permiſſion to return to *England*, that I might anſwer any Accuſation that ſhould be brought againſt me ; for

as

as Commander in Chief of the *Britiſh* Forces in *Germany*, no Perſon there could order a Court-Martial for my Trial, had there been an Accuſation laid; the Power of ſummoning Courts-Martial and approving their Sentences, was veſted in me by my Commiſſion, and no *Britiſh* Officer or Soldier could be tried by any other Authority.

As ſoon as I arrived in *London*, on *Friday* Evening the 7th, I inſtantly wrote the following Letter to the Secretary of State.

" *My Lord*,

" I have the Honour of acquainting your Lordſhip with " my Arrival in *England*, in Purſuance of his Majeſty's Per- " miſſion, ſent to me, at my Requeſt, by your Lordſhip.

" I thought myſelf much injured abroad by an implyed " Cenſure upon my Conduct; I find I am ſtill more unfor- " tunate at home, by being publickly repreſented as having " neglected my Duty in the ſtrongeſt Manner, by diſobeying " the poſitive Orders of his Serene Highneſs Prince *Ferdinand*: " As I am conſcious of neither Neglect, nor Diſobedience " of Orders; as I am certain I did my Duty to the utmoſt " of my Abilities; and as I am perſuaded that the Prince " himſelf would have found, that he had no juſt Cauſe of " Complaint againſt me, had he condeſcended to have en- " quired into my Conduct, before he had expreſſed his diſap-

" probation

" probation of it, from the partial Repreſentation of others: I " therefore moſt humbly requeſt that I may at laſt have a publick " Opportunity given me of attempting to juſtify myſelf to his " Majeſty, and to my Country, by a Court-Martial being ap- " pointed; that if I am guilty, I may ſuffer ſuch Puniſhment " as I may have deſerved; and if innocent, that I may ſtand " acquitted in the Opinion of the World: But it is really too " ſevere to have been cenſured unheard, to have been con- " demned before I was tryed, and to be informed neither of " my Crime, nor of my Accuſers. I am,

" *My Lord*, &c. &c. &c.

" *GEO. SACKVILLE.*"

I received an Anſwer to this Letter on *Monday* the 10th, in which I was aſſured, that a Court-Martial upon my Application would be granted, as ſoon as the Officers capable of giving Evidence could leave their Poſts; but previouſly to the Receipt of that Letter, I was diſmiſſed from all my Military Employments: Notwithſtanding which Diſmiſſion, I ſtill hope, and am informed, that I may have the Advantage of a legal Tryal.

In the mean Time, the only Indulgence I have to aſk is, that the Public will ſuſpend its Judgment till ſuch Facts can be produced, from which alone the Truth can appear; but if Plans of a Battle are to be referred to, which can give no

juſt

juſt Idea of it; if Diſpoſitions of the Cavalry and the Infantry are ſuppoſed, which never exiſted; if Orders for Attacks and Purſuits are quoted, which never were delivered; and if Diſobedience to thoſe imaginary Orders are aſſerted as a Crime, what can an injured Officer, under ſuch Circumſtances have Recourſe to, but claiming that Juſtice, which is due to every *Engliſhman*, of being heard before he is condemned; the ſooner that happens, the happier I ſhall be, as I am conſcious my Innocence muſt appear, when real Facts are truly ſtated and fully proved.

GEORGE SACKVILLE.